

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration
Center for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention**

DID YOU KNOW?

EPT is permissible in 37 states and Baltimore City. Beginning June 1, 2015, EPT for chlamydia and gonorrhea will become legally permissible for certain clinicians in public and private health care settings.

EPT is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; the American Medical Association; the American Bar Association; the Society of Adolescent Medicine; and many other national organizations.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are the two most commonly reported communicable diseases nationwide and in Maryland.

Racial disparity is higher for Gonorrhea than for any other reportable disease nationwide.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cause increased susceptibility to HIV infection and also facilitate HIV transmission to uninfected partners.

Untreated, chlamydia causes pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in nearly 40% of cases. Gonorrhea is also a common cause of PID.

Repeat infections of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea significantly increase the risk of serious health consequences.

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

❑ What is EPT?

- EPT is the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without an intervening medical evaluation. The usual implementation of EPT is through patient-delivered medications or prescriptions to their partners.
- The gold standard for partner management is still direct clinical assessment and treatment.
- EPT is not intended to replace traditional partner notification and management. It can be a valuable option, though, for reaching partners who are unlikely or unable to seek medical care.

❑ Core Elements of EPT

- An infection that is treatable via oral medication (there is clear indication at this time for Chlamydia (CT) and Gonorrhea (GC); a few states address CT only; some include a broad range of STIs; some include a broad range of infectious diseases).
- A recognizable point of origin in which medications or prescriptions can be disbursed.
- A mechanism through which therapy can be brought to sex partners of infected people.

❑ Possible Benefits of EPT

- Opportunity for addressing “missed opportunities” for treatment
- Reduced re-infection rates of index patient
- Increased rates of partner notification
- Increased rates of partner treatment
- Opportunity for addressing health disparities

EPT information adapted from CDC, including Expedited partner therapy in the control of sexually transmitted diseases. 2006. Additional resources available on the CDC’s EPT web site: www.cdc.gov/std/ept.

For information on STIs and EPT in Maryland, visit:
<http://ideha.dhmm.maryland.gov/cstip/>